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## Bay of Pigs Invasion Failure: The Sad Story Finally Unveiled

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Americans who still wonder what happened during the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco will find the revealing answer in the September Reader's Digest.

It is written by Dr. Mario Lazo, a distinguished Cuban exile, who spent more than three years digging out the real causes of the failure.

He found that a brilliant military plan based on equally brilliant intelligence work was wrecked by fears that America's image might be tarnished before world opinion — the old State Department bugaboo.

The plan's failure was far more damaging to American prestige than the State Department could have feared.

The heart of the plan was a series of air strikes before the invasion, plus air cover for the invaders.

The actual events proved that the plan would have toppled Castro if President Kennedy had followed the advice of his military and intelligence advisers instead of listening to his political advisers, Dr. Lazo writes.

Castro was completely surprised by the first air attack two days before the invasion. All his aircraft were on the ground. But political tampering already had ruined the plan.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and other advisers convinced Kennedy to cut the striking force in half. So despite the surprise, many of Castro's airplanes were not damaged. It was these unscathed airplanes that turned the tide against the exiles at the Bay of Pigs.

Cuban screams in the UN caught an uninformed Ambassador Adlai Stevenson in an embarrassing lie. He said the attacks were carried out by defecting pilots in Castro's own air force.

When he Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100250067-7 Stevenson added his protests to those of

Rusk and other advisers.

It was all over for the invading exiles before they set foot on Cuban soil. Despite pleas by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency, Kennedy followed State Department advice.

Castro's untroubled air force smashed the invaders and their ships with bombs and rockets. His troops were able to reach the landing site without being hit by air attacks as originally planned.

The invaders realized too late that the air cover had been called off. But they fought bravely on until their ammunition ran out. All but a few were killed or captured.

U. S. aircraft carriers lingered out of sight from the Bay of Pigs, just over the horizon. Admiral Arleigh Burke, Navy chief of staff, urged Kennedy to use Navy aircraft to destroy Castro's air force, but to no avail. The civilians had Kennedy's ear.

Dr. Lazo's account is a great service to Americans. It clears the CIA and Richard Bissell, its deputy director, of blame for the failure. Bissell's plan would have succeeded, Dr. Lazo writes, if the air phase had been followed.

Dr. Lazo also explodes the theory that Russia would have rained the United States with nuclear missiles. Intelligence reports in the hands of the President proved that Russia had no missiles on the launching pad capable of reaching the U. S., Dr. Lazo said.

Nobody will be surprised at Dr. Lazo's conclusion that Cuban exiles never again will subordinate themselves to an American plan.

He said the exiles and Cubans on the island eventually will overthrow Castro.

He should have added the exiles will do the job if the United States stops hamper-